SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year — Juin 18, 1973

No 202

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

President Huynh Tan Phat at the first meeting of the newly-founded PRG

At the important meeting of the RSVN PRG, President Huynh Tan Phat reaffirms

THE FUNDAMENTAL POLICY OF THE PRG

ON the occasion of its fourth anniversary, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam met in a liberated area of South Viet Nam on June 6 and 7 under the chairmanship of President Huynh Tan Phat.

The session was attended by Dr Phung Van Cung and Prof. Nguyen Van Kiet, both Vice-Presidents of the PRG, other members of the PRG and its Advisory Council.

President Huynh Tan Phat delivered an important political report, followed by reports by many Ministers and Vice-Ministers on the diplomatic, military, cultural, economic, medical, social and educational activities.

In his important political report, President Huynh Tan Phat warmly congratulated the South Vietnamese people on the great victory of their fight against the US imperialists in the past eighteen years, which he said was the most glorious so far in the Vietnamese nation's history of struggle against foreign invasion.

He stressed:

THE Paris Agreement on Viet Nam is a great victory of the most glorious resistance war in the Vietnamese nation's history of struggle against foreign invasion. After 18 years of extremely heroic fight and untold difficulties and trials, the South Vietnamese people and combatants and the Vietnamese nation as a whole have repeatedly defeated four aggressive war strategies of the US imperialists, defeated the biggest aggressor army ever seen in our country and finally swept it out, ending the 115-year-long occupation of Viet Nam by aggressor troops. That victory has ushered in a new stage very favourable to the South Vietnamese people's struggle to achieve independence and freedom and the ultimate peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

President Huynh Tan Phat reviewed the implementation of the Paris Agreement over the past 4 months. He said:

More than four months have elapsed since the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. However the guns have not yet been stilled, peace has not been really restored in South Viet Nam. The only cause of that situation lies in the fact that the US government and the Saigon administration have violated the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam in a very serious and systematic manner.

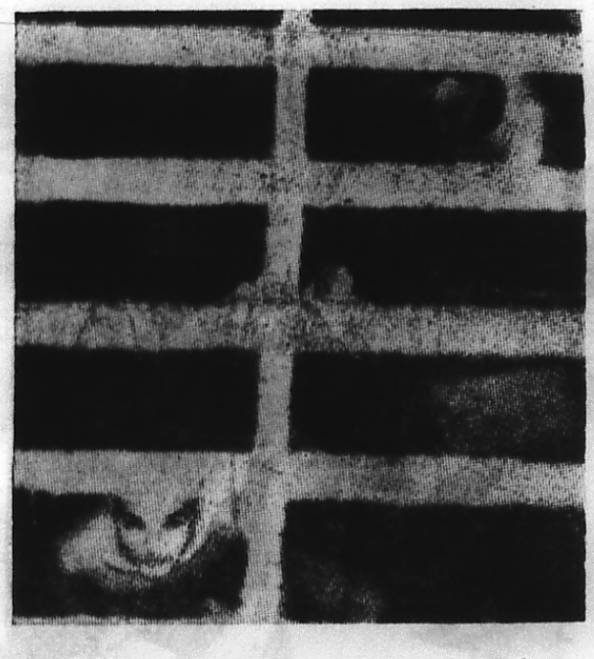
The cause of the present tension in South Viet Nam and Indochina as a whole, he emphasized, is that the US still pursues the "Nixon doctrine" in an attempt to maintain its neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, while the Nguyen Van Thieu administration continues to willingly serve as an instrument for the realization of US neo-colonialism, and opposing peace and national reconciliation and concord.

The RSVN PRG, he went on, demands that the US government and the Saigon administration respect and strictly implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and carry out imperative measures as mentioned in the six-point proposal put forth by the RSVN PRG at the Consultative Conference between the two South Vietnamese parties in Paris. First of all, they must strictly respect the ceasefire, immediately return all civilian personnel detained in

(*Continued on page 4*)

Canadian investigators emphatically confirm:

There are political prisoners in South Viet Nam



"WE have brought back from Viet Nam the proof that presently there are political prisoners held by the Thieu government, that these prisoners are ill-treated and tortured", said a report by an observation team sent to Saigon by the Quebec Office of the International Committee for the Release of South Vietnamese Political Prisoners.

The team which spent over a week in South Viet Nam in late April, consisted of Guy Belanger, Catholic Bishop of Valleyfield, Quebec, A. Lebel, barrister, LL.D. and professor of law at the University of Quebec. It had been entrusted to check Nguyen Van Thieu's allegation that there are no political prisoners in the area of South Viet Nam under his control, and that anyone is invited to see things for himself if he wishes to.

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit and the Reverend Robert Manning of the US joined the team in Saigon.

The team had a list of 129 political prisoners about whom it wanted to get information, and whom it wished to meet personally. Saigon authorities, however, did not allow it to do so.

In the first part of the report *There are political prisoners in South Viet Nam*, one can read:

"During our nearly two-week-long stay in South Viet Nam, we were nevertheless able to meet a number of former political prisoners who had been released recently, as well as several families of persons now detained by the government of South Viet Nam.

After this investigation, we can state formally and with documents to back our words that at present the government of the Republic of Viet Nam holds a very large number of political prisoners.

We regard as a political prisoner any person now detained for other reasons than a positive act of a criminal nature for which he or she has been convicted according to a regular procedure by a tribunal legally set up under the constitution and laws of the Republic of Viet Nam. In a positive fashion we regard as a political prisoner any person now detained solely because of the ideas that he or she has expressed, or that have been attributed to him or her by the authorities. To our mind, the expression of ideas includes their propagation by whatever means, and the adherence to any peace and democratic organization whose purpose is to disseminate such ideas. We regard these criteria—positive and negative—as complementary.

"Besides, we object to that over-simplifying reduction and the primary manicheism of the government which claims that any idea not consistent with the view of the present government should be branded communism or pro-communist neutralism and justify the detention of innocent people. To our knowledge, that is the case of several persons who have been detained for having only maintained that it is possible to have negotiated peace in South Viet Nam.

"Starting from this definition, we have been able to observe and gather positive proof that there thousands of political prisoners in South Viet Nam, and we are going to present hereinafter the observations which have led us to that conclusion.

a) Prisoners held following verdicts of the "military field tribunal"

"We have been able to verify the cases of several dozens of prisoners who are still in jail after being sentenced by the "military field tribunal", an exceptional one formerly called "special military tribunal". Technically, only military cases fell within the cognizance of this tribunal, but a series of decrees-laws has provided that it is competent to deal with all political offences.

According to legislative documents those are political prisoners, and the administration itself regards them as such.

In point of fact, visiting passes granted to those prisoners' families bore the notation 'MTCT convict,' MTCT meaning political front.

Now, in the deputy Tran Ngoc Chau case, the sentence passed by the Supreme Court on May 5, 1970 stated that articles 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, and 13 and paragraph I of decree No 11/62 dated May 21, 1962 instituting the military field tribunal were "unconstitutional" for they clashed with articles 3, 76, 77, 78 and 79 paragraph 6 of the April 1, 1967 constitution of the second Republic of Viet Nam. That decision was based on the fact that the judges of the tribunal did not belong to the magistracy and were not appointed in accordance with the constitution, that the procedure allowed direct citation of cases apart from flagrant offences and did not guarantee the right to be assisted by a barrister, and that that tribunal's decisions could not be appealed against, which put it beyond the constitutional control of the Supreme Court.

After the sentence was passed, the South Vietnamese legislator put right the first point of unconstitutionality by amending the procedure of appointing judges, but the three other aspects concerning the proceedings, the right to have a counsel and the right of appeal having not been amended, we can affirm that the military field tribunal always trangresses the Vietnamese constitution, and that the verdicts it continues to pass are illegal and anti-constitutional.

"We have been able to look into, and are in possession of a dossier kept at the Supreme Court for over two years, contesting again the constitutionality of that military tribunal. In spite of the Vietnamese law which imposes on the Supreme Court the obligation to decide within thirty days after a request has been addressed to it, this high court still wavers between contradicting its own May 5, 1970 sentence and displeasing the government.

"For that reason and insofar as the unconstitutionality of that tribunal is not made good by the South Vietnamese legislator, we consider the fact that all prisoners detained by virtue of sentences passed by the military field tribunal are so illegally under the Vietnamese constitution, and, consequently those prisoners are political ones. Besides, they are recognized as such in documents of the penitentiary administration.

"We were not able to check the figure of 27,000 detainees convicted by the military field tribunal, but it had been supplied to us by an important, most trustworthy religious dignitary: the Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, Secretary General of the South Vietnamese Buddhist Church.

b) Prisoners under preventive detention

"We have been also to notice the existence of a multitude of prisoners under preventive detention, who, apprehended by one of the ten police organizations prevailing in South Viet Nam, had never been accused, tried or convicted.

"South Vietnamese legislation fixed a minimum 48-hour period of preventive detention, but recent amendments extended that minium period to 120 days, which is renewable by decision of the examining judge; in spite of that exorbitant and abnormal delay which is in itself a source of grave injustice, we were able to record numerous instances of preventive detention whose delay had dragged on for over a year now.

"Although we do not know the accurate number of prisoners under preventive detention, and cannot state that all those detainees are political prisoners, we were able to ascertain that several among them were held under solely political charges.

c) Prisoners subject to administrative internment

"We were also able to record the existence of another category of prisoners held officially and specifically for political reasons. As a matter of fact, article 19 of decree-law 004-66 of February 15, 1966, provides that on the Prime Minister's decision, any person regarded as dangerous to national defence and public security may be interned in a prison or a detention camp for a maximum period of two years which is renewable."

That administrative internment, specifically provided for political reasons of national defence and public security is beyond any judicial procedure or control. Imprisonment is not attended by any trial or sentence, but is a unilatera decision of the government which has neither to explain nor justify it.

"In practice, it is the local or provincial security committees which, by virtue of decree 1763ND-AN Sept. 24, 1966, take the decision to throw anyone into prison for a two-year period which is renewable.

"Owing to the very nature of that administrative internment, all persons victims of it answer exactly to the definition of political prisoners, and we were able to establish that they are numerous. On the basis of the amount of money spent on feeding them, the same religious organization (the Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, Secretary General of the South Vietnamese Buddhist Church) puts the number of those detainees at at least 30,000 held by the central administration alone. This minimum number does not include the figure of prisoners kept under preventive detention by provincial or local authorities

"Starting from those three facts of a judicial nature, we believe we can safely state, contrary to the Thieu government's assertions, that there are many political prisoners in South Viet Nam.

"Besides, we have a list of 3,626 political prisoners of one of the three above-mentioned categories. Handed to us by the Venerable Huyen Quang, Secretary General of the Buddhist Church, and established on the basis of thousands of dossiers kept up to date by An Quang Pagoda, that list bears the name of every political prisoner, his birth date, the date and place of his arrest, the judiciary regime under which he is detained, and his place of detention.

It would not be superfluous to stress the importance of making a file of each prisoner, for at present it is the only available means to prevent sudden and inexplicable dissappearances of detainees. Fear of having to account for acts done may perhaps to a certain extent hold back repressive measures of a government that would like one day to get rid of living proofs of their actions on this point, international opinion may be of great help in bettering the lot of those political prisoners."

+ The Saigon administration was recently accused by the Saigon Workers' Trade Union of scheming to lay off 50 percent of its members. As a result of Thieu's fascist, dictatorial economic policy, the latter are idle from 10 to 15 days a month.

The Saigon Federation of Trade Unions also announced that by mid-May 1973 the number of unemployed or half-unemployed among workers in American firms, as well as among pedicab, Lambretta cyclocab and taxi drivers... was as high as 50 percent.

+ In a talk on the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam Unified Buddhist Association denounced the Saigon administration's continued disregard for democratic freedoms and repression and imprisonment of all political opponents to the regime. At the meeting, Superior Bonze Phap Lan, Chairman of the "Buddhist Committee for the Release of Prisoners" condemned the Saigon authorities for substituting political prisoners' records with common law prisoners'. The priest also came out against the Saigon administration's prohibition of prisoners' name and number listing and of visits by the Buddhist Association to political prisoners at Chi Hoa and to seriously ill detained students transferred from Tan Hiep jail to Bien Hoa hospital for medical treatment.

... in the cities

+ On June 4, General Duong Van Minh issued a statement, flaying Thieu's May 12, 1973 09 Decree on the sending to concentration camps, deporting or putting under house arrest of elements considered "harmful to national security" as completely at variance with Article 11 of the Paris Agreement which the Saigon administration had signed. This decree, the statement stressed, was actually aimed at intimidating and jailing opponents to the Thieu regime. It demanded cancellation of all laws and measures against the fundamental freedoms of man, immediate release of political prisoners, in particular of students and pupils detained under the charge of militating for democratic freedoms.

+ On May 16, a Saigon MP urged at the Senate session the Saigon administration to "set free at once prisoners held on political grounds" as a "first step in the achievement of national reconciliation and concord." "The present (Saigon) administration and its spokesmen have affirmed that there are no political prisoners." The MP said: "Nguyen Van Thieu declared in Rome that there were only 21,000 common law offenders and 5,081 communist prisoners. So Truong Dinh Dzu, Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh, the students struggling for University autonomity, for the people's right to live... belong to the former group. One needs not be a jurist, one needs be only a man in the street to feel completely disgusted by this truth-concealing and law-breaking assertion". As far as the total of political prisoners detained by the Saigon administration is concerned, this MP basing himself on data at his disposal estimated it at at least 150,000.

+ An epidemic of *dengue* is spreading at Da Nang and a number of other localities in South Viet Nam. Many papers appearing on May 29 in Saigon reported that by May 21 at Da Nang more than 100 children had died from the disease. On the night of May 21 alone 15 died at the Da Nang Medical Centre. The Saigon administration was denounced by the above said papers as lacking the sense of responsibility, which accounted for the increase of *dengue* dead over the last two weeks.

Steady progress in the liberated areas

AFTER the signing of the Paris Agreement, people in the liberated areas in South Viet Nam have been taking an enthusiastic part in the reconstruction of their long war-ravaged land.

Our abundant natural resources and extensive and fertile soil provide enough facilities to build a free, plentiful and happy life. Mutual assistance helps the farmers solve the shortage of manpower and unceasingly raise their labour productivity. In many areas such as Quang Tri, High Plateaux, South Trung Bo, Long An, Tra Vinh, Can Tho, Ben Tre, etc., mutual aid teams have been set up to boost production.

In Quang Tri alone, 1,790 such teams have been formed in only one year after liberation.

Farming and livestock breeding pushed up

Surmounting all aftermaths of natural calamities and enemy destruction, the peasants have been day and night sparing no effort filling up millions of craters, reclaiming or rehabilitating tens of thousands of hectares of land. In Gio My village (Quang Tri) alone, 200 hectares have been put under rice and 120 hectares under other crops in the same period. In several provinces, the 3rd month and early Autumn crops have been grown. The area devoted to the 3rd month crop in Quang Tri this year has doubled that of last year.

Natural Sciences lesson in the open

Thanks to the activity of the mutual aid teams, the Central Trung Bo peasants have just harvested a bumper 3rd month crop, the first since the restoration of peace. In Binh Dinh, Quang Yen and Phu Yen nearly 1,000 hectares of new land have been cleared and in Districts 67 and 80 of Kontum over 400 hectares.

In Central Nam Bo, after levelling Saigon regime's "strategic hamlets," over 100,000 farmers have regained their native villages and have been actively tilling their fields and building the liberated areas. Braving enemy bombings and shellings, they have joined efforts with the local population in raising the acreage to 14,000 hectares more than previously, over 4,000 returnees from Saigon disguised concentration camps in Binh Long province have prepared 4,000 hectares of land for the Autum crop, and cleared over 50 hectares of hilly land.

In My An, Cao Lanh, Thanh Binh and Hong Ngu districts (Kien Phong province) 456,000 hectares of ricefields have been ploughed. In My An, Cao Lanh and Kien Van districts, 5,000 hectares of fallow land have been put back under cultivation with the revolutionary administration's assistance. In Kien Tuong, the tilled area is 2,850 hectares more than last year, and 700 hectares of hilly land have been reclaimed. Due to improved agricultural techniques, especially the use of high yield rice species, farmers of several localities such as Kien Van district (Kien Phong) have harvested from 6 to 8 tons of paddy per hectare in a single crop. In the first half of May over 130 families in Tra Vinh and Can Tho which had just left Saigon "strategic hamlets" for their home places have rehabilitated over 1,100 hectares of ricefields and hundreds of hectares of orchards. In Ben Tre, the area under Autumn crop has gone up by 7,700 hectares compared with last year, and 10,000 hectares of gardens have been restored to cultivation.

In Ca Mau, nearly 100,000 hectares of crop land have been put under rice including 15,000 devoted to short-duration crop and 620 newly reclaimed hilly land. To improve the living standard, each family has undertaken to produce this year from 100 to 150 kilos of meat and rear from 20 to 40 fowls.

In Cai Nuoc district, the area under Autumn crop this year will be 7,000 hectares higher than last year's figures. To intensify the growing of the short growth crop, peasants in Tran Van Thoi district (Ca Mau province) have shared over 28 tons of seeds for 10,000 hectares to be sown to.

Along with the production of rice and other crops, people in many localities have rehabilitated large areas of orchards destroyed by US bombs and shells and developed animal husbandry. In Cang Long district (Tra Vinh province), 16,500 more sugar canes, thousands of banana trees and a big quantity of cocoa-nut and orange trees have been planted, and nearly 4,000 more head of cattle and over 50,000 more fowls reared.

To help quickly restore production, the revolutionary administration in Quang Da has disseminated new farming technique, made loans to the peasants to buy machines and farm implements.

Restoration and development of irrigation works

In the past period, the Quang Tri population has put in over 20,000 workdays to build irrigation works. In Trieu Thuan, Trieu Dai, Trieu Do and Trieu Trach villages (Trieu Phong district) 13 canals and ditches over 20 km long have been dug to water nearly 10,000 hectares of additional crop land.

People in Cam Thuy and Cam Thanh villages (Cam Lo district) have spent 3,000 work-days on repairing the Lam Lang dam and the nearly 10 km-long "Liberation" ditch to get water for over 600 hectares of additional crop land.

In Central Trung Bo, the inhabitants in various delta provinces have built hundreds of dams and cut dozens of miles of canals. Dictrict R. has got the credit for 117 dams, some village for up to 36 dams.

Farmers in Binh Dinh province have dug over 15 more miles of ditches.

In West Nam Bo, in 3 months after the ceasefire was signed, over 40,000 peasants have left "strategic hamlets" for their native villages. Over 1,300 people in Tra Vinh who returned to the liberated areas have built 18 dams, dug a 13-km long canal. The province population has also spent nearly 5,000 work-days dredging 31 canals, 143 ditches, building 83 dams and hundreds of kilometres of field walls.

The My Tho peasants have dredged 83,000 metres of canals to preserve the farming area.

In Can Tho, 149 big and small dams have been built, over 3,600 metres of ditches cut.

The inhabitants in Khanh Hung A and Khanh Hung B (Ca Mau) have built over 10 km of field walls to keep salt water from nearly 200 hectares of ricefields.

Recently, over 2,000 people in V. village, Vinh Thuan district (Rach Gia) held a festival to celebrate the completion of an irrigation project which is to supply water to over 500 hectares of crop-land.

THE FUNDAMENTAL POLICY OF THE PRG

(*Continued from page 1*)

South Viet Nam, and immediately and fully ensure the people's democratic liberties.

We demand that the US government stop completely its military involment and intervention in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam; cease its reconnaissance activities; continue the demining and implement its obligation toward the DRVN in accordance with the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam; cease all its acts of war of aggression in Cambodia; respect the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos; strictly respect the fundamental national rights of the Cambodian and Lao peoples.

The consistent stand of the RSVN PRG and the DRVN Government is to strictly respect and scrupulously apply the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and firmly demand that the US and Saigon administration do the same. Since the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, we have done so, and we will follow the same course in order to preserve lasting peace in South Viet Nan, ensure the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people.

Dealing with the role and prestige of the RSVN PRG, President Huynh Tan Phat said:

Over the past four years since its formation, in implementation of the Political Program of the NFL and its own 12-point Program, the PRG has since its founding strengthened the nation-wide solidarity bloc and mobilized all social strata into the fight against US aggression, for national salvation, while pursuing a foreign policy of independence, peace and neutrality, uniting with all the revolutionary and progressive forces in the world in the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

The justice of the fight, the correct line and the popular policies have led the great struggle of our people to big victories on all the fronts, military, political and diplomatic.

In the vast liberated zone under its control, the PRG has carried out a policy of nation-wide unity and national concord, stabilized the situation in all fields, encouraged everyone to firmly defend the liberated zone, continually built and developed the revolutionary forces, boosted production, and improved step by step the people's living. Many branches of the economy have been rehabilitated and developed one after another, while cultural, educational and medical work has been pushed up. A sound and joyful life in unity and harmony is shaping up.

The PRG has not only enjoyed the confidence and full support of the people in the liberated areas, but increasing numbers of people of various strata in the areas held by the Saigon administration are turning their thought to the banner of justice, independence, peace, and national concord of the NFL and the PRG of the RSVN.

Along with its military and political successes, the PRG has continually enhanced its prestige and influence in the international arena. So far 32 countries have recognized and established diplomatic relations with the PRG. The Conference of Non-Aligned Countries recognized the PRG as a full member to the Conference. The fair and logical proposals put forth by the PRG at the four-party Conference on Viet Nam in Paris as well as at the current Consultative Conference between the two South Vietnamese parties have enjoyed sympathy and support from broad sections of public opinion.

The realities at home as well as in the international area testify to the role, prestige and power of the PRG and prove that the PRG is the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. Any attempts by the US and the Saigon administration to play down or negate this reality are utterly futile and will only lay bare their stubbornness and wicked designs.

Turning to the situation and tasks of the South Vietnamese people in the new stage, President Huynh Tan Phat said:

In the spirit of national reconciliation and concord, we will strengthen the broad union of all social strata, persistently struggle for the strict and scrupulous implementation of the Paris Agreement with a view to ensuring a stable and lasting peace and completing independence and democracy while improving the people's living, consolidating the liberated zone and strengthening the revolutionary forces all-sidedly so as to achieve a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and proceed to the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm our fundamental policy in the new stage as follows:

1/ Strictly respect and scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and at the same time demand the US government and the Saigon administration to do the same with the aim of maintaining a lasting and stable peace and achieving national reconciliation and concord;

2/ Build a truly national and democratic political regime free from all dependence on foreign countries and ensure the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination;

3/ Heal the wounds of war, stabilize and gradually improve the people's living, rehabilitate and develop economy with a view to building an independent, sovereign and prosperous economy;

4/ Build a national, democratic, sound and progressive culture and education, and promote science and technology and public health;

5/ Re-establish normal relations between the South and the North, and proceed to peaceful national reunification;

6/ Consolidate and develop the neighbourly relations, solidarity and mutual assistance among the three peoples of Indochina, and pursue an independent, neutral and peaceful foreign policy.

President Huynh Tan Phat declared: Peace, independence, democracy, happiness and national concord, such is our people's deep and imperative aspiration, which the PRG is fully determined to transform into reality.

Peace is inseparably linked to independence, democracy and public welfare. The US must end all its military involvement and intervention in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam, and give up its scheme of imposing its neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam. The Saigon administration must give up its policy of repression and terror, stop pressganging people, ensure the freedom of movement, the freedom to earn one's living, the freedom of speech, the freedom of meeting and other democratic liberties as defined in the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. It must return immediately all civilian personnel arrested and detained in South Viet Nam, set free all political prisoners, give up the policy of plunder and exploitation, and improve step by step the life of the various strata of people.

National concord is an essential and the foremost policy of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Also on this occasion, we solemnly declare once again that we always respect the position and role of all the individuals and organizations belonging to the third force both in the country and abroad. Building a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam with a view to the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland is a common cause. With open arms, we welcome and are ready to co-operate with all persons and organizations, irrespective of their past, provided that at present they are ready to contribute to the cause of peace, independence, democracy and national concord of the country.

Regarding the foreign policy of the RSVN PRG, President Huynh Tan Phat said: "The great victories already recorded by our people in the past are undeniable proofs of the absolute correctness of the foreign policy of independence, neutrality, and peace of the RSVN PRG.

Loyal to the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, the RSVN PRG has been unceasingly consolidating and strengthening the relations of good neighbourhood, the fraternal friendship and mutual assistance among the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia which have been forged in the flame of the common struggle to gain and defend the fundamental national rights of each country as well as in national construction, each in its own way.

We energetically condemn the acts of war escalation taken by the US imperialists through the barbarous bombing of the liberated areas of Cambodia. We wholeheartedly support the valiant war of resistance against the US imperialists and their henchmen conducted by the Cambodian people under the leadership of the National United Front and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia headed by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and fully support the five-point Proclamation of March 23,1970 of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk.

We wholeheartedly support the struggle of the Lao people under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front headed by Prince Souphanouvong to demand that the US and the Vientiane side strictly implement the newly-signed Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos.

We continue to give firm and strong support to the national liberation movement of the peoples of the Asian, African and Latin American countries, to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress of the whole world people.

The RSVN PRG calls on the governments and peoples of the socialist countries, the nationalist countries, and the people of all other countries, international organizations, political personalities and religious, social, scientific and cultural activists, and the progressive American people to support the struggle of the Vietnamese people for the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and to assist the people and the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam in healing the wounds of war and rebuilding their country."

President Huynh Tan Phat concluded:

"THE victory of the great anti-US struggle for national salvation and that of the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam marked a new turning-point and ushered in a new stage in South Viet Nam. This situation is creating most favourable conditions for the South Vietnamese people to march forward to accomplish the national and democratic revolution, and to build a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, advancing to the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland."

In want of draught power due to enemy destruction, farmers use pick axes to restore production

President Nguyen Huu Tho receives diplomatic corps in RSVN

ON the afternoon of June 4,1973, the diplomatic corps in the Republic of South Viet Nam paid visits to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the SVN NFL and President of the Advisory Council of the RSVN PRG, in a liberated area of South Viet Nam.

The guests included: Raul Valdes Vivo, Ambassador of the Cuban Republic to the RSVN and Dean of the diplomatic corps; and Taleb Bendiab Chaieb, Om Kieng Tchol, Alexei Elizavetin, Wang Jo-chieh, Dietrick Jarsk, Jan Krzywicki, Benla Benyei, Mohamed Ould Sidi Ali, respective ambassadors of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the USSR, the People's Republic of China, the German Democratic Republic, the People's Republic of Poland, the People's Republic of Hungary, and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Sien An, member of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea and Head of the delegation of the RGNUC attending the celebration of the 4th anniversary of the RSVN PRG, was also present.

The diplomats were also received by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, President of the Viet Nam Alliance of the National, Democratic and Peace Forces, Vice-President of the Advisory Council of the PRG; Nguyen Doa, Vice-President of the RSVN PRG; Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, member of the National Front for Liberation CC, and other high officials of the RSVN.

Speaking on the occasion, President Nguyen Huu Tho sincerely thanked the world peoples for their sympathy and great support for the Vietnamese people and expressed firm conviction that this precious assistance and support would develop with each passing day.

Cuban Ambassador Raul Valdes Vivo, on behalf of the diplomatic corps, expressed the firm resolve of all the ambassadors accredited to the RSVN to accomplish their mission with a view to unceasingly consolidating the friendship and solidarity between the peoples and governments of their respective countries and the Vietnamese people, the PRG. In his capacity as Ambassador of Cuba, he declared that the Cuban people were always ready to carry out the instruction of Premier Fidel Castro: "To the Vietnamese people, the Cuban people are ready to give even their blood."

Speaking on the occasion, Soviet Ambassador Alexei Elizavetin asserted that the CPSU, and the Soviet Government and people have always stood by the side of the South Vietnamese people in the heroic struggle to defend their country.

In his turn, Algerian Ambassador Taleb Bendiab Chaieb warmly hailed the great victory of the people of South Viet Nam and declared that the Algerian people, now as in the past, are determined to support the just struggle of the Vietnamese people.

The reception took place in an atmostphere brimming with fraternal friendship.

Grand reception in honour of PRG anniversary

A grand reception has been given in a liberated area of South Viet Nam by Nguyen Doa, Vice-President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the PRG.

Present at the reception were Lawyer Nguyeu Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the SVN NFL and President of the Advisory Council of the PRG; Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and Vice-President of the PRG Advisory Council; and many other leading members of the NFL, PRG and VNANDPF.

The delegation of the DRVN National Assembly led by Nguyen Xien, Vice-Chairman of the N.A. Standing Committee, and the delegation of the DRVN Government and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, led by Vice-Premier Nguyen Con, attended the reception.

Also present at the reception were the diplornatic corps in the RSVN.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Nguyen Doa brought out the great victories recorded by the South Vietnamese people and reaffirmed the stand of the PRG and the South Vietnamese people to strictly respect and scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam in order to preserve peace and realize national reconciliation and concord, achieve independence and democracy in South Viet Nam, and proceed to the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

He expressed sincere thanks to the DRVN people, the peoples of Laos and Cambodia, of the socialist countries, and all the other progressive peoples and governments in the world for their warm sympathy and vigorous support to the South Vietnamese people's struggle.

An art performance was given on this occasion by the People's Liberation Art Ensemble.

RSVN Foreign Minister meets the press

In a liberated area of South Viet Nam recently, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister of the RSVN, had a meeting with Vietnamese and foreign pressmen on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

Among the participants were *Pravda* and *TASS* correspondents, Chinese TV correspondents, and correspondents of *ADN*, *Prensa Latina*, *l'Humanité*, and Japanese and Yugoslav TV reporters.

She spoke of the accredition of eight foreign ambassadors to the RSVN and the presence oi the delegations of the DRVN National Assembly and Government, the Lao Patriotic Front, the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, and other diplomatic envoys to the celebration of the 4th anniversary of the RSVN PRG.

"This is an important event," she said, adding that it reflected the victory of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the South Vietnamese people on all the fronts including the diplomatic front.

Dealing with the situation of South Viet Nam, she said: "As you all have known, the RSVN PRG and the DRVN Government, since the coming into effect of the Paris Agreement, have seriously and strictly implemented all the provisions of the Agreement, whereas the US government and the Saigon administration have repeatedly committed flagrant, systematic violations of the most vital provisions. In South Viet Nam now, shooting has not yet ceased, and in many places, military operations are going on. In reply to these acts, besides our condemnation, we have acted resolutely to show the other side that its violations will only end in heavier setbacks."

About the diplomatic victory of the RSVN PRG, Minister Nguyen Thi Binh said that more foreign ambassadors will be accredited to the RSVN and that the Republic of South Viet Nam will be represented at the coming Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries.

Regarding the establishment of diplomatic relations between the French government and the Saigon administration, she said it showed a negative attitude of the French government, which had caused the dissatisfaction of many persons and affected the relations between the Vietnamese and French peoples. "This doesn't benefit the French people in their long-term interests, but will only encourage the violators of the Paris Agreement." she stressed.

DRVN IN BRIEF

o On "Exemplary Working Saturdays in Gratitude to Uncle Ho," labour teams of the Hanoi carriage checking and repair workshop have been putting in an amount of work 1,5 or 2 times that of ordinary days. Workers are present at their work sites 10-15 minutes before schedule to prepare materials and tools and check machines. Carriage-checking teams have seen to the maximum rate of security of the trains.

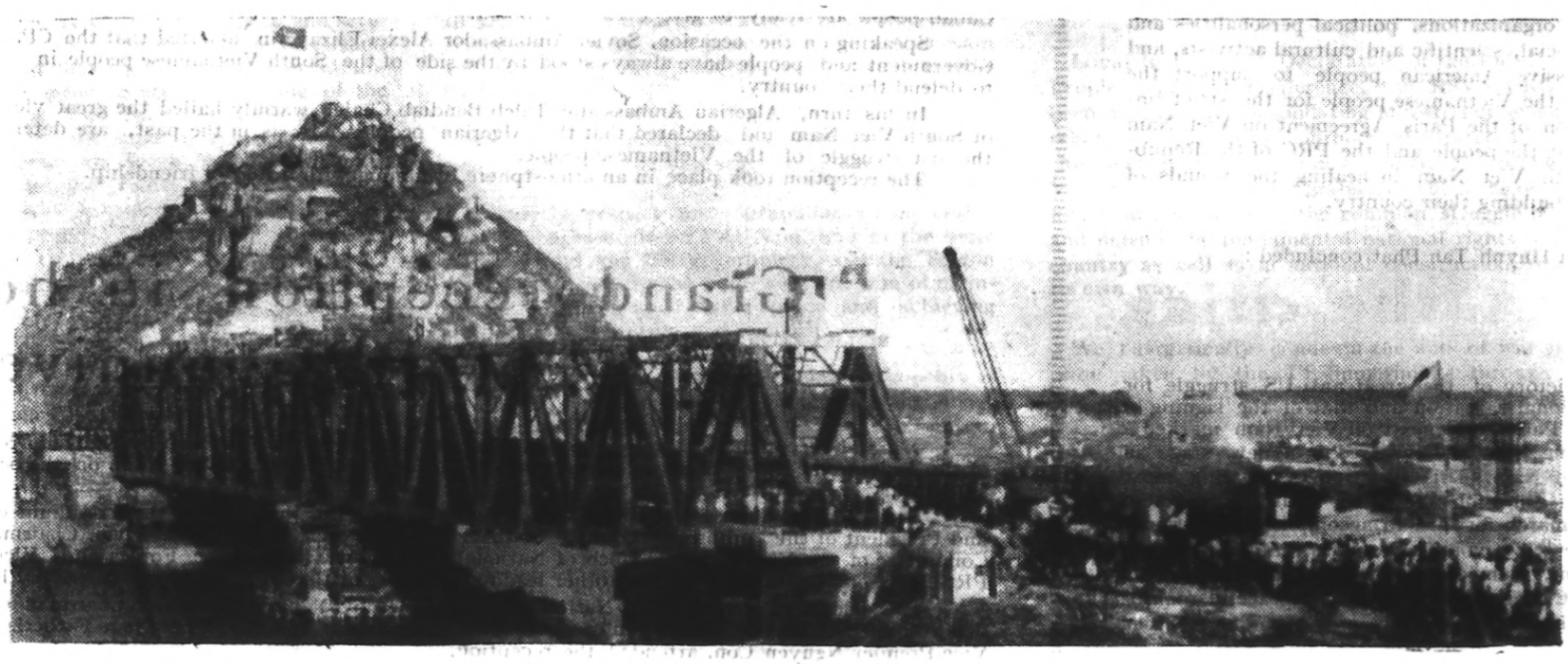
o The Institute of Communication Technology and the Lao Cai Department of Communications have completed the building of Bao Nhai Bridge, the first lasting suspension-bridge ever built in North Viet Nam. It is suspended from tough cables, its deck is made of reinforced concrete and covered with asphalt mixed with clay. It has only one span 140 metres long and 4 metres wide. Armour cars of 15 tons can cross it safely.

o The Co Dinh (Thanh Hoa province) Chromite mine has rapidly restored production and gradually extended its mechanization, thanks to its workers and technicians' zeal. In the first four months of 1973, workers of the repair, extraction and ore selecting workshops coordinating carefully their efforts have put back into commission 1,000 tons of machines and equipment, while 4,000 square metres of brick and concrete housing have been built for production and dwelling purposes. The whole chain of production, mechanized or half-mechanized, has been set in motion, increasing by 40.6 percent the daily amount of ores mined.

o The Haiphong Committee for the welfare of Mothers and Children has promptly restored the normal functioning of kindergartens which now number 1,416 with 21,748 children. This result, obtained two months after the restoration of peace, is of great help to reconstruction work in the city.

o The Central Mechanized Farming Tools Factory has turned out the first mechanized stone-cutting saw. It weighs 30 tons, and is 2.8 metres long. It can cut blocks of stone weighing 14 tons into 29 slabs 2 metres long, 1.5 metres wide and 3cm thick. All difficulties met in designing and production have been surmounted by the factory which plans to turn out 8 more units of the same kind.

o A medical network for the highlands has just been completed by the Medical Department of Ha Giang province. 111 highland villages have been provided with medical workers, and 109 of them have built their own infirmaries and maternity homes with assistant physicians and sanitarians on round-the-clock duty. Each of them has from 10 to 12 beds. The people have acquired a better sense of disease prevention and cure. In 1972, 44,569 visits to village infirmaries and lying-in hospitals (either for medical examination or for medications) and 3,740 hospitalizations were recorded, and medical workers attended to 22,395 patients at their homes.



The Ham Rong (Dragon Jaw) Bridge — a target of the USAF which lost here 106 planes — repaired and reopened to traffic on May 19, 1973, 83rd birth anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh

Here and There

BIRDS OF A FEATHER...

On May 30, 1973, upon Canada's announcement of her withdrawal from the International Commission for Supervision and Control of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the British Foreign Office felt it a duty to chime in with a statement blaming the decision on the DRVN and PRG lack of cooperation. And all that with the traditional British phlegm. Was it an instance of English humour? The gravity of the situation pointed to the contrary.

There is no shortage of evidence to show that the boot is on the other leg, for it would not make sense that the DRVN and PRG who regarded the Paris Agreement as the peak achievement of their gruelling battle should be reluctant to help the ICSC fulfil its task and that the other sides, the US and the Saigon regime who had to sign the accord with half a heart should assist the watchdog body wholeheartedly.

There is only one explanation to the attitude of John Bull: having toed the US for long years, Albion has indulged in a series of objectionable moves as regards US aggression in Viet Nam, of which the above-said outburst was only one sample which indicates that in her shabby gentility, Great Britain finds it hard to honour her signature to the Act of the Paris International Conference on Viet Nam.

True, birds of a feather flock together and the leopard cannot change his spots.

IN HIGH WATERS

Meanwhile Mr Heath's ally, the notorious Tricky Dick remained in a cleft stick.

Mr de La Palice would say that for all the world nobody at present would like to be in Dick's shoes, because of Watergate which has become the talk of our planet. A glance at the headlines of the papers of the world will be enough to give one an idea of the mess the US President is finding himself in. It seems that all his former aides, including the closest, who have resigned or have been fired, have turned state's evidence.

It is understandable that Dick is clinging to his office. After putting out denials upon denials, he ordered his press secretary to launch a counter-attack, he himself staged one, namely after the clearance of Daniel Ellsberg: My opinion, he said, is that it is time to cease glorifying as heroes the thieves of secrets for publication in the papers.

As for secrets, Mr Nixon can of course keep them better than anyone in the US particularly those related to the bugging of the Democratic Party's headquarters. And one must admit that it takes a good deal of guts to keep saying no, no, in the teeth of such damaging disclosures by one's own one-time acolytes.

Let's give a little thought to British MP Cawpheman's suggestion to Her Majesty's Prime Minister to intimate to the US Chief Executive that he would not be welcome to England because of Watergate and that it is hard for a man who has turned the White House into a spot of decaying democracy to be admitted in Europe as an originator of the principles of international democracy. (*UPI*, May 24).

IF THE US GETS A COLD

But such is not Mr Thieu's opinion. He has just uttered one of his best, meant for his bosses of the other shore of the Pacific: "We (i. e. he himself) sneeze if the US gets a cold."

Let Mr Nixon derive from such a protestation of allegiance whatever comfort he can. One thing can be read into the declaration is an SOS, and a pathetic one at all, of the Saigon administration.

According to *UPI* of May 29, such obsequiousness was dictated by Thieu's intention to extort from his masters military and economic subsidies in excess of the quota already agreed on.

The Saigon tin-horn dictator's worries are pretty well-founded. They are about the adverse consequences of the present troubles of his Lord suzerain and God. Political, social and economic difficulties, compounded by the shameful Watergate revelations, have given a vigorous fillip to the drive for a final stop to US involvenent in Viet Nam and Indochina. The Nixon administration has been bound to a certain extent, though it has not given up its designs upon Viet Nam, to gradually restrict its aid to Saigon. Thieu's overdeveloped and over-expensive war machinery for a tottering economy and completely dependent on the US, is aggravating a contradiction which causes him grave concern about his future, in view of his past disasters and his present plight. Who will come to his rescue, if the US itself in distress lets him down?

Hence his series of sneezes since Nixon has caught his head cold.

HUONG NAM

June 6 celebration in the world

A salient trait in the political life many countries in the recent past has been the celebrations of June 6, the 4th founding anniversary of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, with their usual feeling for the South Vietnamese people, especially with the joy over the signing of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam, and in most stirring and significant form : meetings, demonstrations, receptions, exhibitions, concerts, press conferences and film shows in all countries having diplomatic relations with the PRG and also in a number of other countries, especially, a *Week of Solidarity with Viet Nam* in Yugoslavia (on May 28) and in Sweden (on June 1st). In observance of this week, many meetings, demonstrations and mass rallies took place in many cities and localities thoughout Sweden. Pressing their governments to recognize the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has been one of the main themes of the actions in favour of the Vietnamese people taken by the mass organizations and people in the countries where official relations have not yet been established with the PRG.

Heartfelt words of praise and congratulations on the South Vietnamese people's great success recorded under the wise and clearsighted leadership of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government, strong condemnations of US pursuance of its scheme to impose a neo-colonialist rule on South Viet Nam and of US-Saigon brazen and systematic violations the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and reaffirmations of sustained all-round support and assistance to the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people till complete victory have been expressed in congratulatory messages and letters from Heads of State, leaders of political parties, fronts and mass organizations in many countries to Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and President Huynh Tan Phat as well as in the speeches delivered at the meetings, receptions, inaugurations of exhibitions and other commerative functions. "Four years ago," said the message from the *Workers' Party and the Government of Albania*, "the founding of the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam marked a major gain and an important step in the unceasing development of the armed struggle of the people of South Viet Nam for national salvation, freedom, national independence and for the setting up and consolidating of the people's power."

"This historic event ushered in a new, glorious period in the effort of the patriotic and progressive forces in Soutb Viet Nam to defend and assert the national rights of the South Vietnamese people" *(message from the Communist Party and Government of Romania).*

"As the authenthic and legal representative of South Vietnamese people, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has over the past four years played a major role in leading the anti-US resistance of the South Vietnamese people to victory" *(message from the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea).*

"Under the lucid and firm leadership of the NFL and the PRG, the People's Liberation Armed Forces and the people of South Viet Nam, bringing into full play their revolutionary heroism, and creatively opposing the people's war strategy to the most brutal and inhuman war in the history of aggressive wars of US imperialism, have reduced to ignominious failure the Nixon doctrine and "Vietnamization of the war" and compelled the Nixon government to sign the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam" *(message from the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front.*

"The prestige of the NFL and the PRG has not ceased rising in the international arena" (*message of the National United Front of Kampuchea*).

"The signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam has amply demonstrated the judicious political and military line of the NFL and the PRG" *(letter from the Young Philosophers Group "Kommentar," Sweden).*

"The Paris Agreement has initiated a new stage in the striving of the Vietnamese people for a sound solution of the political affairs, and generated new possibilities for South Viet Nam to progress on the road of democracy, independence and neutrality. It has also provided new facilities for step by step achieving the reunification of Viet Nam" *(message from M.S. Solomensev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union).*

"However, the United States, with its gross violations of the commitments it had been forced to take following its disastrous failures on the battlefield and under pressure from progressive forces thoughout the world, is encouraging its reactionary client regime in Saigon to disregard the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and consequently is threatening the prospects of peace which have been opened up by the negotiations in Paris" *(message from the Communist Party and Government of Cuba).*

"At present, the revolutionary struggle of the South Vietnamese people has entered a new historic stage. The PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people, has brought together broad sections of the people and conducted a persistent struggle for the full implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement, national reconciliation, construction and consolidation of the liberated areas, and defence of the fruits of the revolution, and has obtained more and more successes" *(message from the Communist Party of China).* "The struggle of the South Vietnamese people which enjoys the legitimate respect and sympathy of the peace- and freedom-loving mankind, is going on to ensure full and strict implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement and the Act ot the International Conference on Viet Nam" *(message from the Socialist Workers' Party and the Government of Hungary).*

"The tremendous and enduring efforts towards a prompt settlement of all the problems of South Viet Nam have once again proved that the PRG has been functioning as the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. Today, no one can deny its existence and its role in the building of a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam" *(message from the Socialist Unity Party and the Government of the German Democratic Republic).*

Laos

A damning indictment

THE Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front published on May 31 a memorandum on the implementation of the Vientiane Agreement over the past one hundred days.

With convincing arguments and concrete facts, the document highlighted the serious and systematic violation's by the US and Vientiane administration, of the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos. It proved that over the past one hundred days, the US had continued its air bombing, including atrocious attacks by strategic B.52s. US military advisers were ordered to go on with their activities in Laos and the US had gradually transferred to the Vientiane administration the personnel, equipment and aircraft of "Air America" — a disguised US para-military organization which had directly served the US "special war" in Laos over long years. Neither had the US dissolved its "Special Forces," nor withdrawn the tens of thousands of Thai regular troops from Laos; instead it was planning to integrate part of them into the Vientiane army, to hurl both Thai and Vientiane soldiery into encroachment and commando actions against the liberated areas as well as in "sweeps," in defiance of the cease-fire and continued infliction of death and destruction on the Lao people.

The memorandum also showed that the Vientiane administration, wire-pulled by the US and pressured by the Lao ultra-reactionaries, had been resorting to all tricks to delay and impede the settlement of the concrete military and political problems specified in the Agreement, with a view to altering the spirit and letter not only of the Vientiane Agreement but of the 1962 Geneva Agreement as well.

The Vientiane side had refused to definitely settle the cease-fire issue in order to avoid the recognition of the actual existence in Laos of two zones controlled by two sides and to carry on its incursions into the areas under the control of the patriotic forces.

As far as the Provisional National Union Government was concerned, the Vientiane administration had continuously changed its mind on the composition of this government without any regard for the principle of equality between the two parties, it in fact wanted to monopolize all the most important ministries. Concerning the National Union Political Council, it had been plotting to downgrade its role and status. Regarding the neutralization of Luang Prabang and Vientiane, it had stubbornly rejected the proposal of the patriots. It has also refused to dissolve the "refugees' camps," and schemed to turn the International Commission for Supervision and Control into a machinery blanketing the sovereignty of Laos, and to use the so-called "National Assembly" of the Vientiane side as an instrument to sabotage the political and juridical foundation of the Vientiane Agreement.

The May 31 memorandum of the LPF Central Committee was a trenchant verdict which drove the US and Vientiane administration into a corner as law-breakers caught red-handed. The US itself was eventually forced to admit, in face of irrefutable evidence, part of the truth regarding the May 7 transgression of the Lao free zone by US aircraft.

As rightly pointed out in the memorandum, "by systematically sabotaging the implementation of the Vientiane Agreement on Laos as well as that of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and by continuing its aggressive war in Cambodia, the US is clinging to its scheme to intervene in the internal affairs of Laos, Viet Nam and Cambodia in an attempt to maintain its neo-colonialism there. The US and Vientiane administration cannot shirk their responsibility for the continued killing and destruction in Laos and tension in this area. What has proved imperative is the immediate cessation of all US military and political involvement in Laos, and freeing of the Vientiane administration from pressure of the US and Lao ultra-reactionaries and reciprocating the LPF good will. Only on that condition can peace in Laos be consolidated, and national concord achieved, as a contribution to the safeguarding of peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia.

If the US and Vientiane administration obstinately pursue their wild dream, they will receive due punishment from the peoples of Laos, Viet Nam and Cambodia and come under criticisms of progressive opinion all over the world.

DAI LIEN

Surprises for the US in Latin America

ROGERS's recent trip to several countries of Latin America has thrown light on a new trend in this part of the world. It was apparent in the very statements of the US Secretary of State, statements rarely made by a North American figure of such a rank since World War II. Rogers said that from now on the US would renounce paternalism, seek bases for new relations with the countries in the area, and so forth. This proved that US leaders were aware of the independence and democracy movement of the peoples of the Western Hemisphere. But, clearly enough, Nixon's Secretary of State had not, before his visit, thoroughly assessed the situation here. It was only after his trip that, reporting on it in Washington (May 29) he publicly recognized that the peoples' feelings he witnessed were tinted with differing shades of anti-Americanism.

Anti-American demonstrations broke out in Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina and elsewhere. Chanting "US go home," the protestors burnt US flags and cars and set US hotels on fire to vent their indignation at US neo-colonialism.

What Rogers noticed in his interviews with government leaders of eight countries was no longer submissiveness, but a pretty firm desire for an end to US economic and political privileges. This was centered on a change in the US trade policy which had so far caused an annual 600-million dollars deficit to the Latin American partners, on the limitation on US investments, on the sovereignty of the territorial waters of the countries concerned, etc.

In an article on US foreign policy carried by the *Washington Star News* in last November, Mr Nixon promised more attention to Latin America from which he had to a degree been distracted by the Viet Nam war in his 1969-1973 term. Rogers's tour, in his own words, was to prepare for the visit of his boss to this area late this year. The White House's special interest obviously indicates that it can no longer remain indifferent to what has been happening in the one-time backyard of the US.

Washington's concern is not unjustified. As from early this year, the Americans have suffered at least three setbacks in this region.

First, at the March Quito Economic Conference; Latin American delegates unanimously condemned US economic aggression against, and US-imposed unequal relations with, their countries, as the root cause of their economic lag.

Second, at a session of the Security Council also in March, a bitter fight broke out between the US and the Latin American countries which claimed the return of the Panama Canal zone to the Panaman people.

Third, in mid-April, Latin American countries demanded radical changes in the Organization of American states, the replacement of US-dominated relations by those of equality and mutual respect.

Besides, in early April, the Conference of the energy and petrol ministers of 20 Latin American countries reaffirmed the necessity of united action to preserve their resources and counter US pressure in their economic development.

Very clearly, US imperialism is finding itself in the midst of increasing difficulties in the Western Hemisphere. The political and economic positions that North American monopoly capital has secured now come repeatedly under fire. Imperialism is confronted with a powerful movement for genuine national independence based on economic sovereignty and democratic reforms. That movement has impelled or strengthened various governments' efforts to restore political and economic sovereignty—which Rogers termed differing shades of anti-Americanism—in their home and foreign policies alike. More particularly in Chile and Peru, the governments and peoples have won steady successes in their struggle for the liberation of their countries from US most disastrous sway. The latest and really hopeful sign of this trend was the electoral victory of the Justice Party which has put the Campora government in power in Argentina. After assuming office the latter has announced policies meeting long-standing wishes of the people such as: internally, abolition of all undemocratic laws, release of all political prisoners, and externally, expanded relations with socialist and progressive countries.

Of course, nobody thinks North American imperialism is sitting idly watching unfavourable changes occur in the Western Hemisphere. Nixon's "concern," the CIA and ITT dark intrigues, Rogers's trip and unusual words, and so many things else call for everyone's watchfulness.

One thing, however, is sure: nothing can reverse the new trend in Latin America. Gravely weakened, especially by the Viet Nam war, the main foe of the peoples in this part of the planet is no more in a position to rule the roost.

LE MINH

Ellsberg, the disseminator of the Pentagon Papers who has sued Nixon after being discharged by the Federal Court (right — his wife)

The third world in effervescence

THAILAND

The Thai patriotic armed forces routed a raid of the Thai reactionary administration in Chieng-rai, Nan and Nakhon Phanom in mid-April, killing 16 high-ranking functionaries and wounding 25 others. As admitted by the Premier's Office spokesman of the Thai administration, the losses in this operation were the "biggest" ever.

On April 29, the patriotic forces shot afire a helicopter of the Thanom Praphat clique in Nakhon Phanom, killing 6 senior army and police officers and wounding 5 others.

GUINEA (Bissau)

The Guinean patriotic armed forces mounted in May 1973 violent attacks on several important military positions of the Portuguese colonialist, especially in the southern and northwestern parts of the country, wiping out 205 enemy, destroying 11 military vehicles and an amount of other war equipment.

On April 28, the patriotic forces downed two aircraft of the Portuguese colonialists over the Oubucare liberated area, killing all their crew members. Thus in one month ending April 28, the adversary lost 12 aircraft grounded, many crew members killed including the Head of the Portuguese Air Operational Board, one lieutenant-colonel and two majors.

MOZAMBIQUE

The Mozambique patriotic armed forces brought down in early May an aircraft of the Portuguese colonialists in Cabo Delgado, killing 16 enemy aboard, and blew up a train, according to a communiqué of the Mozambique Front of Liberation (FRELIMO). It also made known that in the first three months of this year, the patriotic forces staged repeated attacks on adverse posts in Tete, Cabo Delgado and Niassa, inflicting 280 casualties, downing 2 aircraft, wrecking 2 brigades, derailing two trains and one engine, and destroying 32 military vehicles. The Mozambique patriotic forces also laid ambushes and set off mines, destroying many highways, seriously interfering with the enemy traffic.

ZIMBABWE

According to a Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) communiqué, the Zimbabwe patriotic armed forces from Feb. 23 to April 24 repeatedly assaulted the troops of the Smith racist administration, wiping out 50 men, shooting down a helicopter and capturing a large quantity of war materials.

The same communiqué condemned the Smith reactionary regime's collusion with the Portuguese and South African colonialists in putting down the Mozambique people's legitimate armed struggle.

VENEZUELA

The Venezuelan Tribunal decided on May 25 to confiscate a capital of 15 million bolivars (Venezuelan currency), equivalent to 3,300,000 US dollars of the US "Philip" Oil Company in Venezuela.

On May 28, the Venezuelan Congress also adopted a draft bill on the nationalization within 4 years of all the oil markets and oil production in the country so far in the hands of foreign capitalists, especially the Americans.

Earlier, on May 15, Caracan students paraded and burned rubber tyres on the road leading to the presidential palace to hinder the traffic, in protest against Rogers's coming to Venezuela.

COLOMBIA

Thousands of Colombian students in Bogota and Medelgin held on May 17 a 48-hour strike and burned US flags in a parade in protest against US State Secretary Rogers's visit to their country.

CHILE

Chilean Home Minister H. Espinoza declared on May 15 that the Chilean Government had decided to nationalize the whole tele-communication network up to now run by US and British capitalists. The nationalized companies comprise two US firms and one British firm.

IRAN

The Iranian patriotic forces shot dead on June 2 right in Teheran Colonel L. Hokin, US military adviser to the Iranian military command.